



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Charles Ingram
VDSS Division of Public Affairs
(804) 726-7119
charles.ingram.jr@dss.virginia.gov

Virginia to Celebrate Foster Care Month

Richmond – Governor Mark R. Warner has proclaimed May as Foster Care Month in the Commonwealth. In recognition of this observance, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), local departments of social services and organizations throughout the state are recognizing and promoting awareness of foster parenting.

“The kindness, warmth and caring that foster parents give children should be celebrated,” said VDSS Commissioner Anthony Conyers Jr. “Foster parents truly open their homes and hearts to children in need of family and we applaud them for providing love and compassion to these special children.”

Each year, more than 800 children enter the foster care system in Virginia. These children need the safety and support of a foster family. While most of these children are placed in a foster family, many wait in emergency placements until a family can be found. The Commonwealth needs more resource, foster and adoptive parents.

If you would like more information about becoming a resource, foster or adoptive parent, please contact your local department of social services or visit online at <http://www.dss.state.va.us/family/fostercare.html>.

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Note to reporters: For more information on events planned in Virginia, please contact Joyce Robinson at (804) 726-7578. Interviews may be scheduled with families who are successfully providing loving homes to foster care children based on availability of parents and assurance of confidentiality when necessary. Contact Charles Ingram at (804) 726-7119 for details.